IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method of encoding a digital video sequence (VS), said digital video sequence comprising some sets of images including a disparity map comprising an image in which a disparity value is assigned to every pixel, said disparity map being used to reconstruct one image of a set of images from a reference image of said set of images,
characterized in that the method comprises the steps of:

encoding a type of the disparity map to be used for the reconstruction of an image, ; and

encoding the disparity map.

2. (Currently Amended)   A The method of processing a digital video sequence (VS) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the encoding of the type of the disparity map is done by means of a flag.

3. (Currently Amended)   A The method of processing a digital video sequence (VS) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the encoding of the type of the disparity map is followed by a set of parameters.

4. (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable medium having encoded thereon a computer program product for an encoder (ENC),

said computer program product comprising a set of instructions, which, when loaded into said encoder (ENC), causes the encoder (ENC) to carry out the method claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3.

5.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable medium having encoded thereon a computer program product for a computer, said computer program product comprising a set of instructions, which, when loaded into said computer, causes the computer to carry out the method claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3.

6.   (Currently Amended)   An encoder (ENC) for encoding a digital video sequence (VS), said digital video sequence comprising some sets of images including a disparity map comprising an image in which a disparity value is assigned to every pixel, said disparity map being used to reconstruct one image of a set of images from a reference image of said set of images, characterized in that it the encoder comprises:
        first encoding means adapted to encode for encoding a type of the disparity map to be used for the reconstruction of an image, ; and
        second encoding means for encoding the disparity map.

7.   (Currently Amended)   A video communication system, which is able to receive a digital video sequence (VS), said video communication system comprising an encoder (ENC) as claimed in claim 6 for encoding said video signal, a transmission channel for

transmitting the encoded video signal, and a decoder (DEC) for

decoding said encoded video signal.